

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace claim 7 as follows:

7. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the DPCM quantization is coding the difference between a current value and the immediate previous value, or is coding the difference between a current value and an approximated value which is obtained by adding the immediately previous value to the difference between the immediately previous value and the previous value thereof.

Kindly add claim 21 as follows:

--21. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the DPCM quantization is coding the difference between a current value and the immediate previous value, or is coding the difference between a current value and an approximated value which is obtained by adding the immediately previous value to the difference between the immediately previous value and the previous value thereof--